GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2734
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2003
IMPORT OF BOUND ITEMS
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of bound items of imported goods alongwith the current tariff rate with highest bound limit for each of the items;

(b) whether the imported bound items are adversely affecting the indigenous products in internal market during the past few years;

(c) if so, the extent to which the import of such goods has affected the indigenous items;

(d) the steps taken to protect the indigenous producers against such cheaper imported items;

(e) whether there is any proposal to amend Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 to incorporate the provisions regarding imposition of quantitative restrictions on safeguard grounds; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) India`s tariff commitment to the WTO appears in the Schedule XII of the GATT 1994.This Schedule containing the list of bound items is available in the Parliament Library and is also available on the website of the Ministry of Commerce (http://commerce.nic.in/indshed.htm. The current applied tariffs are available on the website of the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) (http://www.cbec.gov.in/cae/customs/cs-abc.html).

(b) to (d) : In the wake of removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), Government has put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring the import of sensitive items and is committed to provide adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include calibration of applied tariffs within bound tariffs, anti-dumping and safeguard action and imposition of countervailing duties under certain specified circumstances.

(e) Yes Sir,

(f) The proposed amendments relate to incorporating of provisions for imposing Quantitative Restrictions(QRs) on imports as a `Safeguard measure` as per the `Agreement on Safeguards` of the WTO.